



Superintendent Juneau announces the GEMS Project!

State Superintendent

Juneau said, "I believe strongly in making data-driven decisions. The new system will make data readily-available to assist educators and policymakers in reaching data-driven decisions to improve student learning as well as facilitate our work on the state level to increase student achievement and close achievement gaps."

The GEMS Project will provide schools, policymakers, parents and the public with unprecedented access to data and reports regarding Montana's public education system while protecting the educational privacy rights of students and families. The GEMS Project will allow the Office of Public Instruction to efficiently and accurately manage, analyze and use education data, including individual student records. "This is exciting news for parents and educators," continued Juneau. "Data allows us to focus on accountability, effectiveness and achievement. Our goal with the new system is to create user-friendly tools that enhance our ability to provide a quality public education."

SB 329, passed during the 2011 Montana Legislative Session, created new requirements for school districts to display data on publicly available web sites. The Office of Public Instruction will use the new data warehouse to generate the district educational profiles containing school district contact information and links to district web sites, state criterion-referenced testing results, program and course offerings, student enrollment and demographics by grade level, and graduation rates.

June 2011

GEMS Project Team

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Superintendent Juneau
and Jamey Ereth

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**GROWTH AND ENHANCEMENT
OF MONTANA'S SCHOOLS**



JUNE 2011

**MONTANA STATEWIDE
LONGITUDINAL
DATA SYSTEM
(SLDS) PROJECT**



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WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO THE SCHOOLS AND THE PUBLIC?

- FAST ACCESS TO STUDENT AND DISTRICT DATA
- QUICKLY TREND SCHOOL AND STUDENT PERFORMANCE OVER TIME
- ALLOWS DISTRICTS TO USE THE GEMS TOOL WITH THEIR OWN DATA COMBINED WITH DATA COLLECTED BY THE OPI
- CONVENIENTLY COMPARE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT PERFORMANCE



GEMS Project Team Members

How will the GEMS Project enhance our education system in Montana?

- Provide a strong foundation for Montana's education information systems
- Remove barriers to obtaining data in a usable form for decision-makers
- Make possible future reliance on timely, accurate data for a variety of educational purposes including longitudinal studies for growth models, resource allocations, and data mining for information critical for education decisions
- Develop a blueprint that will serve as the basis for organizing longitudinal data on each student
- Provide secure access to student and school data that is currently unavailable to most people at the school and district levels
- Provide the foundation necessary for tracking the educational achievements of all Montana's students from pre-school to post-secondary
- Provide for Student identification confidentiality
- Create an enterprise-wide architecture that allows for future expansion



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

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We Want *you* to become involved!

- Volunteer to be a Stakeholder!
- Help develop the GEMS web site
- Parents, teachers, administrators, and school IT professionals are needed
- Help beta test
- Advise OPI on user access and system capabilities
- Contact Jamey Ereth
jereth@mt.gov
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Growth and Enhancement
of Montana Students